

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appellants	: Koji HIROSE et al.	T.C. Art Unit : 2612
Appl. No.	: 10/530,479	Examiner : N. H. Syed
Filed	: April 6, 2005	Confirmation No. : 5336
Title	: REMOTE CONTROL DEVICE, REMOTE CONTROL METHOD, AND REMOTE-CONTROLLABLE DEVICE	

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. §41.37

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

This appeal is from the decision of the Examiner to finally reject claims 1-6 and 8-14 as set forth in the Final Office Action of February 25, 2008. A Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review and Notice of Appeal were filed on June 25, 2008. The Notice of Panel Decision from the Pre-Appeal Brief Review dated September 23, 2008 set forth a one-month shortened statutory period for response, expiring on October 23, 2008, in which to file an Appeal Brief. The instant Appeal Brief under 37 C.F.R. §41.37 is being filed on or before October 23, 2008.

The requisite fee for filing a Notice of Appeal under 37 C.F.R. §41.20 (b)(1) in the amount of \$510.00 was paid on June 25, 2008. The requisite fee under 37 C.F.R. §41.20(b)(2) in the amount of \$540.00 for the filing of the instant Appeal Brief is paid concurrently herewith. No additional fee is believed to be required for filing the instant Appeal Brief. However, if for any reason a necessary

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fee, including extension of time fees, is required for consideration of the instant paper, authorization is hereby given to charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

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(I) REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. as evidenced by an assignment recorded in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 6, 2005 at Reel 17028, Frame 266. Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. recently changed its name to Panasonic Corporation.

(II) RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no prior or pending appeals, interferences or judicial proceedings known to Appellants, Appellants' legal representatives, or assignees which may be related to, directly affect or be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(III) STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 and 8-14 are pending and have been rejected. Claims 1-6 and 8-14 are part of this appeal. A copy of the claims at issue is attached in the "Claims Appendix." Claim 7 has been cancelled.

(IV) STATUS OF THE AMENDMENTS

A response under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 was filed on May 27, 2008, requesting reconsideration of the final rejection of the claims. On June 16, 2008, an Advisory Action was mailed indicating that the request for reconsideration was considered, but that it did not place the application in condition for allowance. A Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review and Notice of Appeal were filed on June 25, 2008. A Pre-Appeal Brief conference was held. The Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review, dated September 23, 2008, indicated that the application remains under appeal because there is at least one actual issue for appeal and that claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12 and 14 remain rejected. The Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review did not indicate the status of pending claims 4, 11 and 13.

(V) SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER**A. The Claimed Subject Matter**

The summaries below are intended as non-limiting examples of the claimed invention, and no estoppel should be deemed to extend therefrom. As such, the following descriptions are merely exemplary and are not a surrender of other aspects of the present invention that are also enabled by the present specification and that are directed to equivalent structures or methods.

1. INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

Independent claim 1 recites a remote controller system which enables a terminal device to control a device through a network. A first server is operable to communicate with the terminal device through the network, and generate device control data for controlling the device based on a request from the terminal device. A second server is operable to acquire and store a latest ip address of the device on the network by communicating with the device at predetermined time intervals, the second server receiving the device control data from the first server, generating first transmission data including the device control data, and transmitting the first transmission data to the device in accordance with the stored latest ip address of the device.

In this regard, exemplary embodiments of the present specification are shown in Figures 1A, 1B and 3-6, and disclosed at, for example, page 8, line 23 to page 14, line 27. A remote controller system (page 8, lines 19-21) enables a terminal device (page 8, lines 27-29) to control a device through a network (page 8, line 29 through page 9, line 1). A first server (page 9, line 1) is operable to communicate with the terminal device through the network (page 10, lines 1-4), and generate device control data for controlling the device based on a request from the terminal

device (page 9, lines 3-6). A second server is operable to acquire and store a latest ip address of the device on the network (page 9, lines 6-10) by communicating with the device at predetermined time intervals (page 12, lines 21-23), the second server receiving the device control data from the first server (page 14, lines 12-16), generating first transmission data (page 10, line 30) including the device control data (page 14, lines 24-27), and transmitting the first transmission data to the device in accordance with the stored latest ip address of the device (page 14, lines 24-27).

2. INDEPENDENT CLAIM 8

Independent claim 8 recites a remote control system method for enabling a terminal device to control a device through a network. The method includes using a first server to acquire and store a latest ip address of the device on the network by communicating with the device at predetermined time intervals. A second server is used to communicate with the terminal device through the network, generate device control data for controlling the device based on a request from the terminal device, generate first transmission data including the device control data, and transmit the first transmission data to the device in accordance with the stored latest ip address of the device).

In this regard, exemplary embodiments of the present specification are shown in Figures 1A, 1B and 3-6, and disclosed at, for example, page 8, line 23 to page 14, line 27. A remote control system method (page 8, lines 19-21, page 11, lines 28-29) enables a terminal device (page 8, lines 27-29) to control a device through a network (page 8, line 29 through page 9, line 1). The method includes using a first server to acquire and store a latest ip address of the device on the network (page 9, lines 6-10) by communicating with the device at predetermined time intervals (page 12, lines 21-23). The method also includes using a second server (page 9, line 1) to communicate with the

terminal device through the network (page 10, lines 1-4), generate device control data for controlling the device based on a request from the terminal device (page 9, lines 3-6), generate first transmission data (page 10, line 30) including the device control data (page 14, lines 24-27), and transmit the first transmission data to the device in accordance with the stored latest ip address of the device (page 14, lines 24-27).

(VI) GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12 and 14 (incorrectly indicated in the Final Office Action as being claims 1-3, 5-10, 12 and 14, as claim 7 had been previously canceled) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0111698 to GRAZIANO et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0156899 to SEKIGUCHI.

The rejection of dependent claims 4, 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0180579 to NAGAOKA et al.

(VII) ARGUMENT**A. REJECTION OF CLAIM 1 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) OVER GRAZIANO ET AL. AND SEKIGUCHI IS IN ERROR**

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI is in error and the decision of the Examiner to reject this claim should be reversed.

GRAZIANO et al. discloses a web-based system that provides a user with an interface for monitoring and/or controlling home devices in a user's home. The asserted portions of GRAZIANO et al. teach an application rendering based on the type of remote device a user in GRAZIANO et al. uses. In particular, paragraph [0068] of GRAZIANO et al. teaches home configuration information that includes behavioral settings for each device, provided by the user. However, Appellants respectfully submit that GRAZIANO et al. does not teach or suggest that a second server is operable to acquire and store a latest ip address on the network by communicating with the device at predetermined intervals, as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1.

The Examiner acknowledges that GRAZIANO et al. does not teach two different servers and in particular, a second server operable to acquire and store a latest ip address of the device on the network. The Examiner further indicated that the use of two servers would be a mere design choice. Appellants respectfully submit that the use of two servers is not a mere design choice.

The first server communicates with a terminal device (*e.g.*, a mobile phone) and is operable to control a web application screen displayed on the terminal device. The second server communicates with a home device (*e.g.*, a recorder) and is operable to acquire a latest ip address for

the home device. A user operating the terminal device utilizes the first server and the second server to control the home device. Appellants respectfully submit that separating the first server (which controls the device) from the second server (which identifies the device) provides distinct advantages as discussed below.

Advantages of providing two distinct and separate servers include addressing communication traffic increases associated with the use of a single server for identifying and controlling a device. Another advantage of providing two distinct and separate servers includes addressing resource costs associated with implementing different protocols associated with different entities on a single integrated server. That is, each entity utilizing the first server is provided with its own implementation of the first server. Another advantage of using two distinct and separate servers includes allowing exclusivity of network connectivity. In this manner, users of the first server may configure and access the first server from internal networks without creating security concerns.

For example, the first server can serve as a server for company "A" that provides service for remote timer recording, or as a server in company "B" to transmit images to the remotely located device. For company "A", the first server of company "A" can remotely set a timer recording identified by the second server. For company "B", the first server of company "B" can transmit images to the device (recorder) identified by the second server. The separation of functionality allows a second server to identify the device and a first server to provide services for the device (recorder) located at the identified ip address.

If the first server and the second server were integrated into a single server, as proposed

by the Examiner, the following problems arise:

(1) the servers of both companies "A" and "B" would have to communicate with the device to identify the ip address of the device and the status of the device, resulting in increased communication traffic; and

(2) each device would need to implement different protocols provided for companies "A" and "B" in order to communicate with companies A and B, resulting in increased manufacturing/development costs.

The above-noted problems are eliminated by employing two servers, as taught by Appellants' invention. Thus, Appellants submit that the use of two servers is not a mere design choice, as alleged by the Examiner, but rather, a significant feature of the claimed invention.

In addition to again asserting that this feature of claim 1 is obvious, the Examiner also asserts SEKIGUCHI as showing the use of plural servers. SEKIGUCHI teaches a gateway 118 located on ISDN 117 and provides services such as image and protocol conversion to display PHS data from the gateway. Appellants respectfully submit that SEKIGUCHI does not teach a second server is operable to acquire and store a latest ip address on the network by communicating with the device at predetermined intervals, as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1. The Advisory Action asserts that SEKIGUCHI discloses that home gateway (server) comprises two systems (a first system and a second system), in which the second system is connected to peripheral devices on home network. The Examiner also asserts that SEKIGUCHI further discloses that the first system periodically monitors the connectivity conditions of controller 225 to determine whether the power of the second

system is turned on, and when the power is turned on, the first system acquires the ip address of the second system. However, Appellants respectfully submit that the asserted portions of SEKIGUCHI at paragraphs [0059]-[0062] merely indicate that the second system obtains an ip address in a process initiated by server controller 224. That is, paragraphs [0059]-[0062] disclose that when the first system detects a broadcast message (DHCPDISCOVER) from an Ethernet connection controller 225, a DHCP server of the first system assigns the ip address information to the second system. Consequently, the ip address is assigned by the DHCP server of the first system to the second system at which time the power is turned on, instead of the latest ip address being acquired by the second server by communicating with the device, as specified in Appellants' claim 1.

Appellants respectfully submit that SEKIGUCHI does not teach or suggest a second server is operable to acquire and store a latest ip address on the network by communicating with the device at predetermined intervals, as recited in Appellants' independent claim 1. As described above, SEKIGUCHI merely describes a first system assigning an ip address to a second system, and not an ip address being acquired (by the second server) by communicating with the device. Further, SEKIGUCHI does not teach or suggest that a latest ip address is acquired at predetermined time intervals. Rather, SEKIGUCHI merely periodically monitors connectivity conditions, and assigns an ip address when necessary. An ip address may not be assigned each time the first system monitors connectivity, and accordingly, no periodic relation may exist between the monitoring and assigning an ip address. That is, the assigning of an ip address as described in SEKIGUCHI does not occur at predetermined time intervals.

Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted to be allowable over GRAZIANO et al. and SEKIGUCHI

for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is improper and the decision of the Examiner to reject claim 1 on this ground should be reversed.

B. REJECTION OF INDEPENDENT CLAIM 8 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) OVER GRAZIANO ET AL. AND SEKIGUCHI IS IN ERROR

The rejection of independent claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI is in error and the decision of the Examiner to reject this claim should be reversed. In this regard, arguments made with respect to independent claim 1 are also applicable to independent claim 8.

GRAZIANO et al. discloses a web-based system that provides a user with an interface for monitoring and/or controlling home devices in a user's home. The asserted portions of GRAZIANO et al. teach an application rendering based on the type of remote device a user in GRAZIANO et al. uses. Appellants respectfully submit that GRAZIANO et al. does not teach or suggest using a first server to acquire and store a latest ip address of the device on the network by communicating with the device at predetermined time intervals. Paragraph [0068] cited in the Office Action merely indicates that behavioral settings for each device can include instructions for dates and times to turn a device on and off, and can also instruct a home attendant to monitor the status of home devices and to change the behavior or state of the home devices according to a user's preferences. That is, the cited portion of GRAZIANO et al. does not teach or suggest an ip address, let alone using a first server to acquire and store a latest ip address of the device on the network by communicating with the device at predetermined time intervals, as recited in claim 8.

The Examiner acknowledges that GRAZIANO et al. does not teach two different servers and in particular, a second server operable to acquire and store a latest ip address of the device on the network, but asserts that the use of two servers would be a mere design choice. Appellants respectfully disagree.

The first server communicates with a terminal device (*e.g.*, a mobile phone) and is operable to control a web application screen displayed on the terminal device. The second server communicates with a home device (*e.g.*, a recorder) and is operable to acquire a latest ip address for the home device. A user operating the terminal device utilizes the first server and the second server to control the home device. Appellants respectfully submit that separating the first server (which controls the device) from the second server (which identifies the device) provides distinct advantages as discussed below.

Advantages of providing two distinct and separate servers include addressing communication traffic increases associated with the use of a single server for identifying and controlling a device. Another advantage of providing two distinct and separate servers includes addressing resource costs associated with implementing different protocols associated with different entities on a single integrated server. That is, each entity utilizing the first server is provided with its own implementation of the first server. Another advantage of using two distinct and separate servers includes allowing exclusivity of network connectivity. In this manner, users of the first server may configure and access the first server from internal networks without creating security concerns.

For example, the first server can serve as a server for company "A" that provides service for

remote timer recording, or as a server in company "B" to transmit images to the remotely located device. For company "A", the first server of company "A" can remotely set a timer recording identified by the second server. For company "B", the first server of company "B" can transmit images to the device (recorder) identified by the second server. The separation of functionality allows a second server to identify the device and a first server to provide services for the device (recorder) located at the identified ip address.

If the first server and the second server were integrated into a single server, as proposed by the Examiner, the following problems arise:

(1) the servers of both companies "A" and "B" would have to communicate with the device to identify the ip address of the device and the status of the device, resulting in increased communication traffic; and

(2) each device would need to implement different protocols provided for companies "A" and "B" in order to communicate with companies A and B, resulting in increased manufacturing/development costs.

The above-noted problems are eliminated by employing two servers, as taught by Appellants' invention. Thus, Appellants submit that the use of two servers is not a mere design choice, as alleged by the Examiner, but rather, a significant feature of the claimed invention.

The Examiner also asserts SEKIGUCHI to show the use of plural servers. Appellants respectfully submit that SEKIGUCHI does not teach acquiring and storing a latest ip address of the device on the network by communicating with the device at predetermined time intervals, as

specified in Appellants' independent claim 8. The Advisory Action asserts that SEKIGUCHI discloses that home gateway (server) comprises two systems (a first system and a second system), in which the second system is connected to peripheral devices on home network. The Examiner also asserts that SEKIGUCHI further discloses that the first system periodically monitors the connectivity conditions of controller 225 to determine whether the power of the second system is turned on, and when the power is turned on, the first system acquires the ip address of the second system. However, Appellants respectfully submit that the asserted portions of SEKIGUCHI at paragraphs [0059]-[0062] merely indicate that the second system obtains an ip address in a process initiated by server controller 224. That is, paragraphs [0059]-[0062] disclose that when the first system detects a broadcast message (DHCPDISCOVER) from an Ethernet connection controller 225, a DHCP server of the first system assigns the ip address information to the second system. Consequently, the ip address is assigned by the DHCP server of the first system to the second system at which time the power is turned on, instead of acquiring and storing a latest ip address of the device on the network by communicating with the device, as specified in Appellants' claim 8.

Appellants respectfully submit that SEKIGUCHI does not teach or suggest using a first server to acquire and store a latest ip address of the device on the network by communicating with the device at predetermined time intervals, as recited in Appellants' claim 8. As described above, SEKIGUCHI merely describes a first system assigning an ip address to a second system, and not an ip address being acquired (by the second server) by communicating with the device. Further, SEKIGUCHI does not teach or suggest that a latest ip address is acquired at predetermined time intervals. Rather, SEKIGUCHI merely periodically monitors connectivity conditions, and assigns an

ip address when necessary. An ip address may not be assigned each time the first system monitors connectivity, and accordingly, no periodic relation may exist between the monitoring and assigning an ip address. That is, the assigning of an ip address as described in SEKIGUCHI does not occur at predetermined time intervals.

Accordingly, claim 8 is submitted to be allowable over GRAZIANO et al. and SEKIGUCHI for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is improper and the decision of the Examiner to reject claim 8 on this ground should be reversed.

C. REJECTION OF DEPENDENT CLAIM 2 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) GRAZIANO ET AL. AND SEKIGUCHI IS IN ERROR

The rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI is in error and the decision of the Examiner to reject these claims should be reversed.

Claim 2 depends from independent claim 1 and is, therefore, patentable over GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI for all the same reasons as previously addressed in connection with independent claim 1. Furthermore, this claim is submitted to be allowable for the combination of features recited therein. Specifically, the combination of GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI does not disclose an address generator operable to generate an ip address of the device controlled according to device control data with reference to a stored ip address, and based on device control data received from a first server, as required in dependent claim 2. That is, contrary to the claimed invention, a server as described in SEKIGUCHI merely generates an ip address, without reference to

either device control data or a stored ip address.

D. REJECTION OF DEPENDENT CLAIM 3 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) GRAZIANO ET AL. AND SEKIGUCHI IS IN ERROR

The rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI is in error and the decision of the Examiner to reject these claims should be reversed.

Claim 3 depends from independent claim 1 and is, therefore, patentable over GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI for all the same reasons as previously addressed in connection with independent claim 1. The combination of GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI fails to teach (or even suggest) a section operable to generate third transmission data including extracted status information, and transmit the third transmission data to a first server, as required by claim 3. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion that the modification of GRAZIANO et al. to include another server would be a matter of design choice, Appellants' respectfully submit that the use of two servers is not a matter of design choice for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

E. REJECTION OF DEPENDENT CLAIM 6 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) GRAZIANO ET AL. AND SEKIGUCHI IS IN ERROR

The rejection of dependent claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI is in error and the decision of the Examiner to reject these claims should be reversed.

Claim 6 depends from independent claim 1 and is, therefore, patentable over GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI for all the same reasons as previously addressed in connection with

independent claim 1. Furthermore, this claim is submitted to be allowable for the combination of features recited therein.

Specifically, the combination of GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI fails to teach (or even suggest) that functions into which a function of the first server and a function of the second server are integrated are provided by at least three servers, as required by dependent claim 6. Contrary to the Examiner's assertion that the modification of GRAZIANO et al. to include another server would be a matter of design choice, Appellants' respectfully submit that the use of two servers is not a matter of design choice for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

F. REJECTION OF DEPENDENT CLAIMS 5, 9, 10, 12 AND 14 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)

GRAZIANO ET AL. AND SEKIGUCHI IS IN ERROR

The rejection of claims 5, 9, 10, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI is in error and the decision of the Examiner to reject these claims should be reversed.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12 and 14 depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 and 8 and are, therefore, patentable over GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI for all the same reasons as previously addressed in connection with independent claims 1 and 8. Furthermore, these claims are submitted to be allowable for the combination of features recited therein.

G. REJECTION OF DEPENDENT CLAIMS 4, 11 AND 13 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) OVER

GRAZIANO ET AL., SEKIGUCHI AND NAGAOKA ET AL. IS IN ERROR

The rejection of dependent claims 4, 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GRAZIANO et al., SEKIGUCHI and NAGAOKA et al. is in error and the

decision of the Examiner to reject these claims should be reversed.

Claims 4, 11 and 13 depend directly from either independent claims 1 or 8 and are, therefore, patentable over GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI and NAGAOKA et al. for all the same reasons as previously addressed in connection with independent claims 1 and 8. Furthermore, NAGAOKA et al. does not cure the deficiencies of GRAZIANO et al. and SEKIGUCHI. Specifically, the cited portions of NAGAOKA et al. do not teach or suggest at least a second server operable to acquire and store a latest ip address of the device on the network by communicating with the device at predetermined time intervals, as recited in claim 1. Further, the cited portions of NAGAOKA et al. do not teach or suggest at least using a first server to acquire and store a latest ip address of the device on the network by communicating with the device at predetermined time intervals, as recited in claim 8. Moreover, these claims are submitted to be allowable for the combination of features recited therein.

(VIII) CONCLUSION

The cited teachings of GRAZIANO et al. and SEKIGUCHI do not disclose the combination of features characteristic of the remote controller system recited in claim 1 or the remote control system method recited in independent claim 8. That is, GRAZIANO et al. and SEKIGUCHI do not render obvious the recited in the pending claims, as would be required for the combination of GRAZIANO et al. and SEKIGUCHI to be properly applied in a rejection of claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103. The cited teachings of GRAZIANO et al. and SEKIGUCHI do not render obvious the remote controller system recited in claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 nor the remote controller system method recited in claims 9, 10, 12 and 14.

Further, the cited teachings of GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI and further in view of NAGAOKA do not render obvious the combination of features characteristic of the remote controller system recited in claim 4 or the remote controller system method recite in claims 11 and 13.

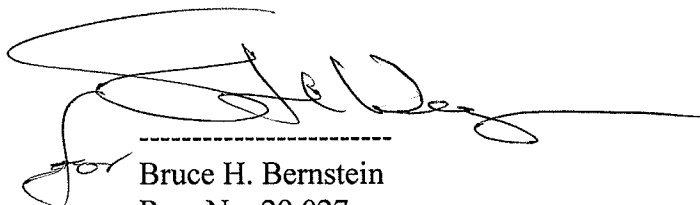
At least for each of the reasons set forth above, the decisions to reject claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI and claims 4, 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GRAZIANO et al. in view of SEKIGUCHI and further in view of NAGAOKA, are improper, each pending claim of the present application meets the requirements for patentability under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and the present application and each pending claim thereof is allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, reversal of the decision to reject claims 1-6 and 8-14 is respectfully requested.

Attorney Docket No. P27690

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If there are any questions about this application, a representative of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Koji HIROSE et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce H. Bernstein", is written over a horizontal dashed line.

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Attachments: Claims Appendix, Evidence Appendix, and Related Proceedings Appendix

CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A remote controller system which enables a terminal device to control a device through a network, comprising:

a first server operable to communicate with the terminal device through the network, and generate device control data for controlling the device based on a request from the terminal device; and

a second server operable to acquire and store a latest ip address of the device on the network by communicating with the device at predetermined time intervals, the second server receiving the device control data from the first server, generating first transmission data including the device control data, and transmitting the first transmission data to the device in accordance with the stored latest ip address of the device.

2. The remote controller system according to claim 1, wherein

the first server comprises:

a data storage operable to store control information that is information necessary to control an operation of the device;

a display data generator operable to generate display data that allows the terminal device to display the control information; and

a control data generator operable to generate the device control data in response to a request from the terminal device,

the second server comprises:

an address storage operable to store an ip address of the device on the network;

an address generator operable to generate an ip address of the device controlled according to the device control data with reference to the stored ip address, and based on the device control data received from the first server; and

a transmission data generator operable to generate the first transmission data including the ip address of the device and the device control data to the device, and transmit the first transmission data to the device; and

the device comprises:

a section operable to extract the device control data from the first transmission data; and

a section operable to control the operation of the device based on the extracted data for device control.

3. The remote controller system according to claim 1, wherein

the device comprises:

a section operable to detect a status of a target to be controlled in the device; and

a section operable to generate second transmission data including status information that is information on the detected operating status, and transmit the second transmission data to the second server,

the second server comprises:

a section operable to extract the status information from the second transmission data received from the device; and

a section operable to generate third transmission data including the extracted status information, and transmit the third transmission data to the first server, and

the first server comprises a section operable to extract the status information from the third transmission data received from the second server, and generate the display data using the extracted status information.

4. The remote controller system according to claim 1, wherein
the device is a video recording and reproducing apparatus, and
the device control data is information about programs, and is timer recording data for allowing timer recording to be conducted for a designated program at a designated time in accordance with the request from the terminal.

5. The remote controller system according to claim 1, wherein
the device is a temperature controlling apparatus, and
the device control data is data for controlling a temperature of the temperature controlling apparatus.

6. The remote controller system according to claim 1, wherein functions into which a function of the first server and a function of the second server are integrated are provided by at

least three servers.

8. A remote control system method for enabling a terminal device to control a device through a network, the method comprising:

using a first server to acquire and store a latest ip address of the device on the network by communicating with the device at predetermined time intervals; and

using a second server to communicate with the terminal device through the network, generate device control data for controlling the device based on a request from the terminal device, generate first transmission data including the device control data, and transmit the first transmission data to the device in accordance with the stored latest ip address of the device.

9. The remote control system method according to claim 8, comprising:

storing control information that is information necessary to control an operation of the device, and generating display data for allowing the terminal device to display the control information;

generating the device control data in response to a request from the terminal device, and generating an ip address of the device controlled by the device control data with reference to the stored ip address and based on the device control data;

generating the first transmission data including the ip address of the device and the device control data, and transmitting the first transmission data to the device; and

controlling the operation of the device based on the device control data included in the

first transmission data.

10. The remote control system method according to claim 8, further comprising detecting an operating status of the device, receiving the transmission data including status information that is information on the detected operating status of the device from the device, extracting the status information from the transmission data thus received, and generating the display data using the extracted status information.

11. The remote control system method according to claim 8, wherein the device is a video recording and reproducing apparatus, and the device control data is information about programs.

12. The remote control system method according to claim 8, wherein the device is a temperature controlling apparatus, and the device control data is information for designating a temperature.

13. A remote-controlled device controlled by the remote control system method according to claim 8, wherein the device control data is information about programs.

14. A remote-controlled device controlled by the remote control system method according to claim 8, wherein the device control data is information for designating a

temperature.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

NONE

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

NONE